

News

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HIGHLIGHTS OF AMARILLO, TX NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY APRIL 2003

Workers in the Amarillo, Texas metropolitan area averaged \$14.57 per hour during April 2003, according to a new survey released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Regional Commissioner Bob Gaddie reported that white-collar workers averaged \$17.18 per hour and accounted for 51 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$13.68 per hour and represented 29 percent of the workforce, while the remainder worked in service occupations and earned \$9.42 per hour. (See table 1.)

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for occupations in establishments with 50 or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. The survey excludes agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal government. This NCS covered 250 firms representing 39,200 workers in the Amarillo metropolitan area, which is comprised of Potter and Randall Counties in Texas. Seventy-one percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Amarillo metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for 24 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, computer programmers averaged \$24.77 per hour; registered nurses \$23.57; and secretaries, \$12.85. Blue-collar occupations included truck drivers at \$13.65 per hour and stock handlers and baggers at \$8.51. In the service occupations, nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants averaged \$7.90 per hour.

Individual earnings within a broad occupational category may differ depending on the industry of employment. For example, blue-collar workers in private industry at \$14.08 per hour earned more than their counterparts in State and local government (\$8.99). The reverse was true for white-collar employees. Specifically, white-collar workers in State and local government (\$19.10) earned more than corresponding workers in private industry (\$16.03).

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the Amarillo area averaged \$15.14 per hour, considerably more than part-timers at \$8.08. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$25.33 per hour, eclipsing their nonunion counterparts at \$11.90. Private industry workers *overall* at establishments with 500 or more employees averaged \$15.20 per hour, well above the \$10.95 average hourly wage of those in establishments employing 50-99 workers.

The NCS is part of a statistical program that integrates three previously separate surveys of wages and benefits into one comprehensive compensation program increasing the amount of data available. Data provided by the NCS may be used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use such data to help choose potential careers. Average rates of pay are also available for levels of work within an occupation based on knowledge, skill, independent judgment, supervision received and other factors required on the job.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Amarillo, TX National Compensation Survey April 2003 (Bulletin 3120-11). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the Dallas Information Office by calling 214-767-6970. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm>. This release can also be obtained from the Bureau's fax-on-demand service in Dallas by dialing 214-767-9613 and requesting document 9502.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Dallas Information Office at 214-767-6970 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

Technical Note

Because the NCS is a sample survey, it is subject to sampling errors. Sampling errors occur because observations come only from a sample and not from an entire population. The sample used for this survey is one of a number of possible samples of the same size that could have been selected using the sample design. Estimates derived from the different samples would differ from each other. A measure of the variation among these differing estimates is the standard error. It can be used to measure the precision with which an estimate from a particular sample approximates the expected result of all possible samples. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate from the survey differs from a complete population figure by less than the standard error. The chances are about 90 out of 100 that this difference would be less than 1.6 times the standard error. The statements of comparisons appearing in this publication are significant at a 1.6 standard error level or better. This means that for differences cited, the estimated difference is greater than 1.6 times the standard error of the difference.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings¹, all workers²: Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Amarillo, TX, April 2003

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
All	\$14.57	2.5	\$13.59	3.2	\$17.12	4.0
All excluding sales	14.68	2.2	13.64	2.7	17.12	4.0
White collar	17.18	2.0	16.03	2.9	19.10	2.7
White collar excluding sales	17.84	1.7	16.87	2.3	19.10	2.7
Professional specialty and technical	21.96	2.7	20.18	3.9	23.76	3.8
Professional specialty	23.63	2.9	22.16	3.7	24.55	4.4
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	—	—	—	—	—	—
Natural scientists	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health related	25.62	3.3	24.30	4.9	—	—
Registered nurses	23.57	2.0	23.39	2.3	—	—
Teachers, college and university	—	—	—	—	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	25.62	2.2	—	—	25.97	2.1
Librarians, archivists, and curators	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social scientists and urban planners	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	14.82	4.8	—	—	—	—
Social workers	14.81	4.9	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	10.86	7.9	10.86	7.9	—	—
Technical	16.83	5.1	17.48	5.9	—	—
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians	10.18	11.0	10.18	11.0	—	—
Licensed practical nurses	14.67	1.1	14.67	1.1	—	—
Health technologists and technicians, n.e.c.	12.65	18.0	—	—	—	—
Computer programmers	24.77	5.1	24.77	5.1	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	24.17	7.4	26.03	7.1	20.96	13.7
Executives, administrators, and managers	27.05	10.9	29.38	11.1	23.03	23.8
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	28.50	16.7	32.03	16.3	—	—
Management related	20.24	5.3	21.46	5.0	—	—
Sales	13.07	10.2	13.07	10.2	—	—
Supervisors, sales	31.33	46.2	31.33	46.2	—	—
Cashiers	7.83	2.5	7.83	2.5	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical	11.47	2.8	11.47	3.9	11.46	3.8
Secretaries	12.85	7.1	—	—	12.38	9.1
Receptionists	9.66	8.1	8.74	6.7	—	—
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	9.96	5.8	—	—	—	—
General office clerks	10.68	8.1	10.90	11.4	—	—
Bank tellers	10.22	5.2	10.22	5.2	—	—
Administrative support, n.e.c.	12.32	9.1	11.42	7.5	—	—
Blue collar	13.68	2.6	14.08	2.5	8.99	6.5
Precision production, craft, and repair	14.84	4.4	15.18	4.5	—	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.62	7.5	13.62	7.5	—	—
Transportation and material moving	17.31	2.9	17.38	2.9	—	—
Truck drivers	13.65	6.8	13.65	6.8	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.31	4.7	9.52	5.5	—	—
Stock handlers and baggers	8.51	7.5	8.51	7.5	—	—
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	7.50	3.7	7.50	3.7	—	—
Service	9.42	6.0	6.49	6.8	14.78	4.0
Protective service	14.69	3.7	7.67	2.4	15.87	3.8
Food service	5.53	9.2	5.53	9.2	—	—
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	3.33	7.9	3.33	7.9	—	—
Waiters and waitresses	3.13	10.0	3.13	10.0	—	—
Other food service	7.84	8.5	7.84	8.5	—	—
Cooks	7.93	2.0	7.93	2.0	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c.	6.24	5.3	6.24	5.3	—	—
Health service	8.11	2.2	8.04	2.7	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings¹, all workers²: Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Amarillo, TX, April 2003 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Service —Continued						
Health service—Continued						
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	\$7.90	3.2	\$7.90	3.2	—	—
Cleaning and building service	8.44	9.4	7.15	6.0	—	—
Janitors and cleaners	9.01	8.7	7.60	8.5	—	—
Personal service	6.25	2.8	6.25	2.8	—	—
Child care workers, n.e.c.	6.75	9.7	6.75	9.7	—	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

³ A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria, and n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 2. Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group², National Compensation Survey, Amarillo, TX, April 2003

Occupational group	Private industry and State and local government					
	Full-time workers ³	Part-time workers ³	Union ⁴	Nonunion ⁴	Time ⁵	Incentive ⁵
	Mean					
All occupations	\$15.14	\$8.08	\$24.13	\$14.04	\$14.39	\$19.73
All excluding sales	15.16	8.22	24.13	14.11	14.66	15.53
White collar	17.49	12.31	—	17.12	16.91	26.85
White-collar excluding sales	17.85	17.58	—	17.79	17.82	—
Professional specialty and technical	21.94	—	—	21.98	21.96	—
Professional specialty	23.53	—	—	23.63	23.63	—
Technical	17.10	—	—	16.80	16.83	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	24.17	—	—	24.17	23.96	—
Sales	14.74	7.53	—	13.07	9.95	26.99
Administrative support, including clerical	11.56	8.42	—	10.95	11.46	—
Blue collar	13.99	7.49	25.33	11.90	13.58	15.11
Precision production, craft, and repair	14.84	—	20.81	13.58	14.75	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.62	—	—	13.16	13.62	—
Transportation and material moving	17.35	—	—	13.18	17.81	15.51
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.72	7.16	—	8.80	9.34	—
Service	10.45	4.77	—	9.42	9.42	—
	Relative error ⁶ (percent)					
All occupations	2.1	6.1	3.8	2.6	2.3	10.5
All excluding sales	1.9	7.6	3.8	2.3	2.2	5.7
White collar	1.8	6.7	—	2.0	1.8	20.2
White-collar excluding sales	1.7	10.0	—	1.7	1.7	—
Professional specialty and technical	2.9	—	—	2.7	2.7	—
Professional specialty	2.9	—	—	2.9	2.9	—
Technical	6.3	—	—	5.2	5.1	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	7.4	—	—	7.4	7.3	—
Sales	10.8	2.3	—	10.2	6.7	21.6
Administrative support, including clerical	2.9	10.0	—	1.9	2.9	—
Blue collar	2.1	5.4	4.8	2.9	2.6	4.4
Precision production, craft, and repair	4.4	—	5.4	4.1	4.4	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	7.5	—	—	7.6	7.5	—
Transportation and material moving	3.0	—	—	5.9	3.7	.7
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	4.8	3.2	—	2.5	4.7	—
Service	5.3	8.3	—	6.0	6.0	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information (from full publication).

³ Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

⁴ Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

⁵ Time workers' wages are based solely on an hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

⁶ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A in full publication.

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Table 3. Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group², private industry, National Compensation Survey, Amarillo, TX, April 2003

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers				
	All private industry workers	50 - 99 workers ³	100 workers or more		
			Total	100 - 499 workers	500 workers or more
	Mean				
All occupations	\$13.59	\$10.95	\$14.43	\$13.83	\$15.20
All excluding sales	13.64	10.63	14.61	13.80	15.56
White collar	16.03	14.48	16.38	17.08	15.52
White-collar excluding sales	16.87	14.60	17.34	18.33	16.37
Professional specialty and technical	20.18	15.68	20.77	21.29	20.38
Professional specialty	22.16	15.16	23.11	23.99	22.60
Technical	17.48	16.46	17.60	18.75	16.35
Executive, administrative, and managerial	26.03	22.86	26.97	27.20	26.09
Sales	13.07	14.17	12.74	14.04	—
Administrative support, including clerical	11.47	11.83	11.38	12.11	10.68
Blue collar	14.08	14.19	14.06	12.93	15.14
Precision production, craft, and repair	15.18	18.25	14.49	17.32	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.62	11.93	13.82	12.76	—
Transportation and material moving	17.38	14.13	18.60	13.91	24.30
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.52	8.61	9.67	8.04	—
Service	6.49	5.23	7.83	7.40	—
	Relative error ⁴ (percent)				
All occupations	3.2	7.6	2.8	4.5	1.5
All excluding sales	2.7	7.2	2.2	4.2	1.4
White collar	2.9	3.8	3.7	5.6	3.2
White-collar excluding sales	2.3	5.6	2.6	3.8	3.3
Professional specialty and technical	3.9	13.5	3.9	5.4	5.2
Professional specialty	3.7	23.3	3.0	6.3	2.3
Technical	5.9	7.6	6.7	7.5	12.3
Executive, administrative, and managerial	7.1	7.8	8.0	7.4	27.1
Sales	10.2	10.0	12.4	14.0	—
Administrative support, including clerical	3.9	5.9	3.6	5.9	3.7
Blue collar	2.5	5.4	3.2	5.8	1.4
Precision production, craft, and repair	4.5	2.7	5.1	4.8	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	7.5	7.3	8.6	11.7	—
Transportation and material moving	2.9	7.6	3.5	7.2	9.3
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	5.5	9.0	6.4	4.3	—
Service	6.8	5.4	5.9	3.3	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B in full publication for more information.

³ Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain

establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A in full publication.

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